

[19 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

**Training of unemployed youths by Army**

3653. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'North East Times' dated 11th January, 2001 under the caption "Army to train unemployed youths for self-employment";

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme;

(c) by when the scheme is proposed to be inaugurated and the number of unemployed youths proposed to be covered initially under the scheme; and

(d) whether the scheme is subsequently proposed to be extended to other States of North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) While there is no regular scheme as such, funds are sanctioned from time to time for Civic Action Programme being carried out by the Army in the North-Eastern states. A number of unemployed local youth were trained in certain basic skills in workshops organised at Changsari, Tamulpur and Kokrajhar in Assam as a part of the ongoing Civil Action Programme being undertaken by the army formations in the North-East.